

To the Honorable Commissioners of the FCC,

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I am voicing my support to retain all the FCC rules in question. These rules set limits on concentration of the broadcast industry and serve the public interest by preserving diversity of ownership in the broadcast marketplace. These rules are; The Television-Radio Cross-Ownership Rule, The Broadcast-Newspaper Cross Ownership Ban, The National Television Ownership Rule, The Duopoly Rule for Radio, The Local Television Ownership Rule, and The Dual Network Rule.

The great privilege to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events, both locally and globally, is part of the founding philosophy of this country. If the avenues for sharing information are restricted to very few, then I fear that the quality of the information presented will decay. What is the value of varied information sources when they are controlled by a single voice?

Indeed, such diversity has already been compromised in deregulation actions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which have allowed conglomerates to homogenize (for instance) the FM broadcast spectrum with generic demographically determined programming, thus pricing creative FM station operators out of the market. I personally only find the Public Access area (the lower 4 MHz) of the FM Broadcast Band to be usable as a consumer of programming. That's sad, because the broadcast spectrum is a national resource, in theory.